

Appl. No.: 10/087,433
Reply to Office Action of: 05/17/2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,607,303 B2. The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection. Claim 1 claims a twist boot. Claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,607,303 B2 do not disclose or suggest a twist boot. The examiner stated that having a twist boot is known in the art. In accordance with MPEP §2144.03 the examiner is requested to cite a reference in support of her position. It is believed that the combined features recited in claim 1 are not obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,607,303 B2; alone or in view of the other art of record. Independent claims 9 and 19 also claim a mounting system with a twist boot. Claim 29 claims a pair of latch inserts inserted into the housing's passage in different directions. Claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,607,303 B2; alone or in combination with other art of record, do not disclose or suggest a pair of latch inserts inserted into the housing's passage in different directions. Claim 39 claims a pair of inner adapter housings inserted into opposite ends of the passage. Claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,607,303 B2; alone or in combination with other art of record, do not disclose or suggest a pair of inner adapter housings inserted into opposite ends of the passage. The dependent claims, because they contain the features of the independent claims, are also believed to be patentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,607,303 B2. In view of the remarks above, the examiner is requested to reconsider her rejection.

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Claims 1-5, 8-16, 18-21, 23-27, 29-33 and 35-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnsworth et al. (US 6,508,593 B1) in view of Cabalka et al. (US 6,146,192). Claims 6, 7, 17, 28, 34, 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnsworth et al. (US 6,508,593 B1) in view of Cabalka et al. (US 6,146,192) and Szilagyi et al. (US 6,305,961 B1). Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnsworth et al. (US 6,508,593 B1) in view of Cabalka et al. (US 6,146,192) and Mayercik et al. (US 6,461,053 B1). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, claim 1 claims that the mounting system comprises a twist boot. In the office action the examiner stated that it is well known in the art to use a flexible twist boot to protect the fibers from stress. In accordance with MPEP §2144.03 the examiner is requested to cite a reference in support of her position. It is believed that the combined features recited in claim 1 are patentable. More specifically, the housing section has a slanted aperture. Thus, the row of fibers extend out of the connector slanted relative to the mounting section and panel, and the twist boot supports the row of multiple optical fibers extending from the connector. The row of optical fibers twists along a bend in the optical fibers and the twist boot provides a twist path inside the twist boot which supports the optical fibers along the bend (which starts at a slant relative to the mounting section and panel) and along the twist of the row of fibers. The combination of features of claim 1 is not disclosed or

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suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 2-7 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 9 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, claim 9 claims that the mounting system comprises a twist boot. In the office action the examiner stated that it is well known in the art to use a flexible twist boot to protect the fibers from stress. In accordance with MPEP §2144.03 the examiner is requested to cite a reference in support of her position. It is believed that the combined features recited in claim 9 are patentable. More specifically, and as can be seen in Fig. 1 of the application, the housing section is slanted relative to the mounting section such that the row of optical fibers extend from the connector with a generally twisted shape and a slant relative to the mounting section and the panel; the twist boot supporting the row of fibers provides the fibers with their generally twisted shape. The combination of features of claim 9 is not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 9 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 10-12 and 14-18 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 9.

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However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 19 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, claim 19 claims that the mounting system comprises a twist boot; the twist boot twisting a row of optical fibers. Again, in the office action the examiner stated that it is well known in the art to use a flexible twist boot to protect the fibers from stress. In accordance with MPEP §2144.03 the examiner is requested to cite a reference in support of her position. It is believed that the combined features recited in claim 19 are patentable. More specifically, and as can be seen in Fig. 1 of the application, the optical connector mounting system of claim 19 has an adapter mount, an adapter, and a twist boot. The twist boot twists the row of optical fibers. It is believed that this combination of features is not suggested in the art of record. The twist boot twists the row of optical fibers so that the row has a predetermined shape. The features of claim 19 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 19 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 20-28 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 19. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 29 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, claim 29 claims that the pair of latch inserts are inserted into the passage of the housing in

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different directions, and that each latch insert is adapted for locking a corresponding connector to the housing. Neither Farnsworth et al. nor Cabalka et al. disclose or suggest a pair of latch inserts which are inserted into a passage of a housing in different directions, and that each latch insert is adapted for locking a corresponding connector to the housing. The features of claim 29 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 29 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 30-38 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 29. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 39 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, claim 39 claims that each inner adapter housing is adapted for locking a respective one of the optical connectors in the passage, and that the pair of inner adapter housings are inserted into opposite ends of the passage. Neither Farnsworth et al. nor Cabalka et al. disclose or suggest a pair of inner adapter housings adapted for locking respective ones of the optical connectors in the passage, and that the pair of inner adapter housings are inserted into opposite ends of the passage. The features of claim 39 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 39 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 40-41 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due

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to their dependence from allowable claim 39. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

New claims 42-43 have been added above to further claim the features recited therein.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's Attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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8/16/04

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